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metro
Wednesday, June 4, 2008 metronews.ca Calgary

realestate p.20

Long mortgages opening doors

local p.4

Slain 'keener' remembered

celeb buzz p.30

ex factor

Cameron cosies up with Aniston's old beau, reports say

canada p.8

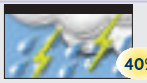
Officer dies in Afghan ambush

environment p.16

Home audits can save money

automotive p. 22

Altima's sex appeal



High 18°
Low 6°
40%
WEATHER P. 31

ROBIN KUNSKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Two schools were shut down due to striking support staff at the Calgary Board of Education yesterday as the union fought for better wages, working conditions and respect.

Not all can strike

Many school workers can't afford long picket, staff manager says

By **KRISTA SYLVESTER**
Metro Calgary

While 3,500 public school system support workers began a two-day strike yesterday, the irony is, some can't afford a lengthy labour battle.

Calgary Board of Education teachers' aides, administration staff, janitors and lunchroom monitors began picketing yesterday in favour of better wages, better working conditions and more stability.

One Calgary woman, who wished to withhold her name for fear of backlash from her union peers, said she is concerned about the strike.

"We're already underpaid, and we don't get paid for days off or holidays, so I just can't afford a strike. I think they are banking on the fact most of us can't afford to strike," she said.

The woman added she's not sure if the strike action will bring about change to workers' pay and benefits.

"I just don't know what will come of this," she told Metro.

Staff association manager Bill Flookes admitted a lot of people can't afford to strike, which is why the union took a two-day strike tactic.

"We recognize the fact that people may not be able to afford this, so we took the approach of striking for two days and going back to the table."

-krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

drawing a line

» Staff association manager Bill Flookes said 1,600 members voted and 92 per cent were in favour of striking, but admitted most aren't striking because they want to.

Home prices jump: Survey

Two southwest Calgary communities have been ranked in the top five in Canada for the highest home appreciation over the last decade despite the fact that the overall market continues to cool.

A survey released by Royal Le Page said that almost all communities in the city have prompted triple digit price appreciation, but Mount Royal saw 363.8 per cent, second highest, and Scarboro 271.3 per cent, fourth, in typical condo prices.

Nationally, condo prices increased by 131.5 per cent. METRO CALGARY

Fire flares up on 13th floor

A downtown fire yesterday may have the superstitious scratching their heads. At 777-8th Ave SW on the 13th floor, a fire, presumed to be electrical, broke out in a computer room. While no one was injured and the fire quickly extinguished, the fire department is reminding Calgarians to have escape plans for work and home to avoid unlucky mishaps in the future.

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local

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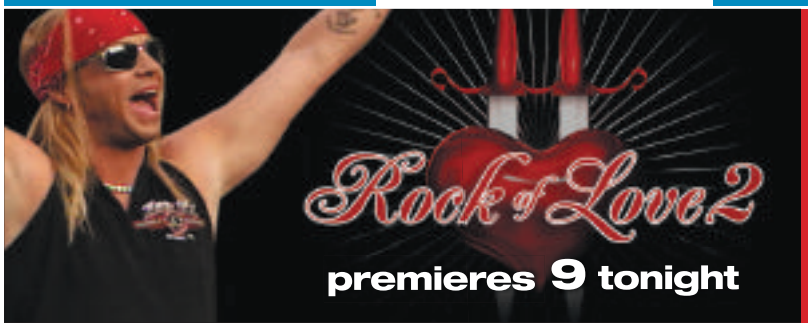
Three bands are sharing the stage in support of stroke survivors tonight in hopes of raising $10,000 at The Whiskey at 6 p.m. For more information visit *www.marchofdimes.ca*. METRO CALGARY



Citytv
ROGERS

Sculpture finds home

Controversial work to be placed on display at Glenbow

By **KRISTA SYLVESTER**
Metro Calgary

After stirring up debate in Vancouver, a controversial sculpture rejected by the city is on its way to the Calgary Glenbow Museum.

Device to Root Out Evil, a sculpture by American artist Dennis Oppenheim, was rejected by Vancouver's parks committee after residents were split about the upside-down church with its steeple planted into the ground.

Some there loved it while others deplored it, but Calgary welcomed it. Some residents thought the message about religion rooting out evil was too much to handle.

"Glenbow Museum is delighted to welcome the work of world renowned artist Dennis Oppenheim to Calgary. It's now time for Calgarians to be inspired and challenged by his sculpture," Glenbow Museum president and CEO Jeff Spalding said.

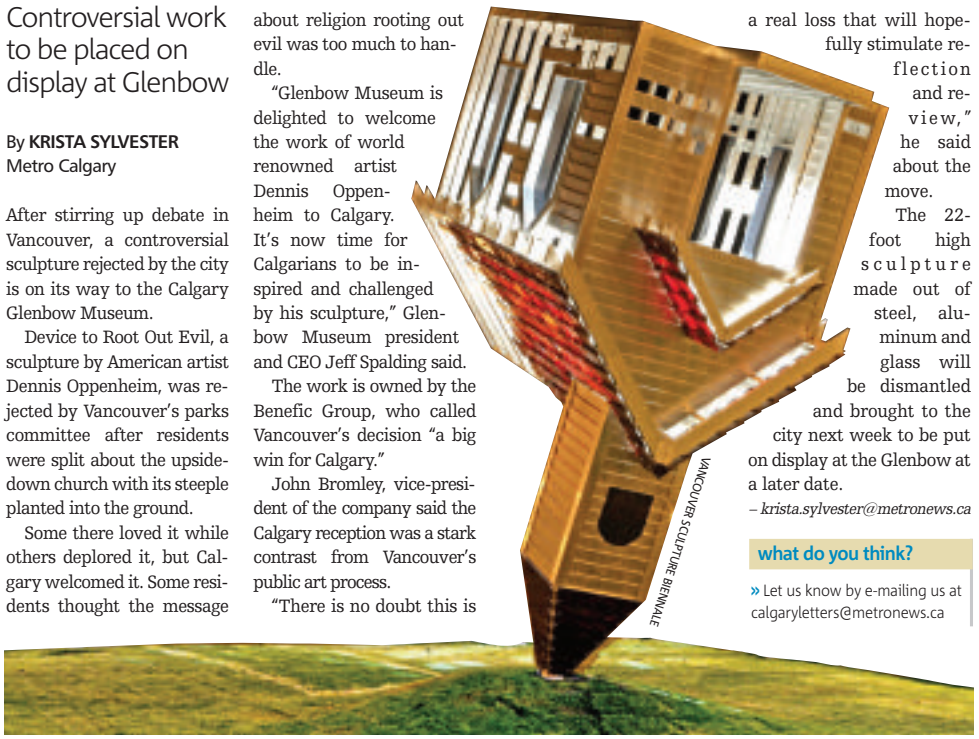
The work is owned by the Benefic Group, who called Vancouver's decision "a big win for Calgary."

John Bromley, vice-president of the company said the Calgary reception was a stark contrast from Vancouver's public art process.

"There is no doubt this is a real loss that will hopefully stimulate reflection and review," he said about the move.

The 22-foot high sculpture made out of steel, aluminum and glass will be dismantled and brought to the city next week to be put on display at the Glenbow at a later date.

– *krista.sylvester@metronews.ca*



what do you think?

» Let us know by e-mailing us at calgaryletters@metronews.ca

A controversial sculpture titled: Device to Root Out Evil will be displayed outside the Glenbow Museum in the coming weeks. The sculpture, by American artist Dennis Oppenheim was rejected by the Vancouver parks committee last week.

Svekla guilty on one of two counts

Not enough proof man killed second prostitute: Judge

By **VICTORIA HANDYSIDES**
Metro Edmonton

Thomas Svekla has been found guilty of second-degree murder and committing indignity to the body of Theresa Innes, one of two prostitutes he was accused of killing.

Svekla

However, Court of Queen's Bench Judge Sterling Sanderman decided yesterday that there was not enough evidence to tie Svekla to the murder of Rachel Quinney, other than the fact that he found her mutilated body.

Cries of shock and disappointment from Quinney's family were heard in the packed courtroom after the verdict was read, while Svekla looked down with his arms crossed.

When Sanderman concluded that Svekla did, in fact, murder Innes, the accused killer wore a look of puzzled disbelief.

Though all evidence presented by the Crown Prosecutors was circumstantial, and there was no forensic evidence, Sanderman ruled that Svekla's behaviour, coupled with a web of provable lies, made his story about how he came in possession of Innes' body "fanciful and ridiculous."

"His story is preposterous and incapable of belief, and was concocted by Mr. Svekla to get himself out of a tight jam," Sanderman said.

The elaborate "cocoon" wrapping of Innes' naked body, which was wrapped in Svekla's shower curtain and bound with mechanic's wire, was a key piece of evidence in the case. The body was found by Svekla's sister, after he transported it from High Level to Fort Saskatchewan in a hockey bag in May 2006.

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The girl was certainly going places

Family remembers daughter, niece, curious journalist

By **NEIL MACKINNON**
Metro Calgary

Tears flowed and laughter was shared as Amber Bowerman's family remembered the curious journalist, lawn bowler and knitter, who was the life of the party, afraid of heights and all but athletic.

"She tried ballet when she was younger, but I think she just liked the tutu and the slippers," said Bowerman's mother Susan Webb at a press conference yesterday in a SAIT coffeehouse, the school where Bowerman was an editor of the student paper. Last Wednesday, Bowerman's supper still simmered on the stove. A glass of wine sat unfinished.

Bowerman

She had just returned home from a conference in Lake Louise an hour before Joshua Lall took her by surprise in the family's basement suite, ending her life by knife before killing his wife, two of his children and then himself.

"When we got the things from her house, we took the rest of the wine to my dad's and we all had a sip and a toast to Amber," said Webb, her voice beginning to tremble. "I know that's what she'd want."

Webb said the family has nothing but sympathy for the Lalls, and Bowerman's aunt, Lolly James, said it wasn't just her family's loss, but the world's because "that girl was going places."

Bowerman's brother Jonny said while he hears friends regularly talk about fighting with their sisters or hating them, he can't recall a solitary moment of ill sibling rivalry.

"Looking back, I don't remember, any time, fighting with my sister, ever," he said.

Bowerman's husband Chris said a scholarship has been set up in Amber's honour through the Alberta Magazine Publishers Association to help "underprivileged kids and keeners, because she was a keener."

Bowerman's public funeral is this afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

-neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

NEIL MACKINNON /METRO CALGARY

Chris Bowerman is consoled by his mother-in-law Susan Webb after a press conference yesterday to remember Amber Bowerman, the basement tenant killed in last week's murder-suicide in Dalhousie.

Sexual exploitation charge laid

By **KRISTA SYLVESTER**
Metro Calgary

City cops have charged a 49-year-old male caregiver volunteer with sexual exploitation of a person with a disability. The charges against 49-year-old Allan George Robinson stem from a complaint after an event organized by the Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary (ILROC), where the man was volunteering and the victim in her 30s was attending.

Staff Sgt. Curtis Olson of sex crimes told Metro the suspect was allegedly in an inappropriate relationship with the woman for about six months.

"While cases like this aren't usual, they do happen. We as a community need to watch out for our disabled persons' well-being," Olson said.

krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Cops promote bike safety tips

Reminder comes on heels of teen crash on Monday

By **KRISTA SYLVESTER**
Metro Calgary

City cops are reminding cyclists to remember the road rules in light of Monday's incident when a teen was struck by a car.

Police say the 13-year-old boy was not wearing a helmet and listening to an iPod at the time, which may have indirectly resulted in the collision, according to traffic education Cst. Mike O'Connor.

"Cyclists should demount and walk their bikes through cross walks because they become pedestrians. Monday's incident was an unfortunate reminder of why that is important," O'Connor told Metro.

O'Connor also wants to remind cyclists it's important to wear helmets and be aware of their surroundings, but also to follow the same rules of the road motorists would.

"It's funny, we talk about things that distract motorists but there are things that can distract cyclists and pedestrians, too," he said. "Wearing headphones may block out warning noises such as oncoming vehicles."

The boy was struck around 7 a.m. on his way to school in a cross walk in the 4200 block of 52 St NE. Police say the lights were working but were not activated at the time. Police are still investigating whether or not charges will be laid against the 23-year-old driver.

krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

»news In Brief

» **DEATH** Swollen, fast moving creeks due to recent heavy rains were a factor in the drowning death of a 62-year-old Lethbridge man. RCMP said Larry Ross Walters was found around 6 p.m. Monday night at Racehorse Creek near Coleman. Walters and his wife were camping nearby, when he slipped into the fast-moving waters of the creek.

» **AWARDS** Fifteen citizens, 20 Calgary Police Service officers and one civilian member of the service were recipients of the 2008 Chief Awards, handed out last night. The awards recognize extraordinary courage, hard work, leadership and dedication to improving quality of life in the community.

» **IDENTITY** The RCMP has identified the body of a man found near Lake Louise late last month. Yamaa Pagmani, 39, also known as Sayed Khalid, a cab driver from Regina, was found outside the resort town on May 27. Cause of death is still unknown and the police are asking for the public's help.

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Mayor hosts 'green' expo

City students learn about environment

By **ALICIA FOX**
for Metro Calgary

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

ENMAX employee Jessica Riddoch yesterday showed Calgary Science School students how much energy light bulbs waste.

Kermit had it right: it's not easy being green, but Calgarian kids gathered at the 19th annual Mayor's Environmental Expo yesterday to learn what steps they could take to prove the little frog wrong.

With more than 50 exhibits and 14 schools with their own displays, the youngsters were excited to be out of the classroom and experimenting with the hands-on displays, including pedaling lights on, flushing toilets to see where the water ends up, and quizzing each other on environmental knowledge.

Megan Kyle, 9, from the Cochrane Christian Program in Midford Middle School, said she was enjoying herself while learning a lot.

"If all the rivers had drains it would be easier," she said after watching how chemical sneak their way into our waterways and observing how the display manager drained the miniature display for the next group.

"We just have to be totally careful of what we do," Kyle said.

The kids also heard the mayor announce his goal that the curbside recycling program will be in full swing by this time next year.

"Many Calgarians are just surprised it has taken so long," Bronconnier said. The 15 destination depots will remain open for a time with each home receiving a recycling bin and paying an $8 fee for the service.

The move could divert 80 per cent of materials from landfills by 2020.

Calgary Zoo eyes new parking fee

Drivers, LRT users may face $5 charge

By **NEIL MACKINNON**
Metro Calgary

« They already get enough from admission fees. »
Zoo patron Dreyton Vandale

Calgary Zoo patrons may have to ante up twice before they get to see the lions and tigers and bears.

"It's way too much," said Dreyton Vandale of the zoo's proposed $5 parking fee for both animal onlookers and LRT riders to offset the cost of parking lot expansions, which would upgrade the existing lots and add another 500 stalls at a cost of $7 million.

"They already get enough from admission fees."

While the city would cover 28 per cent of the expansion because it would increase LRT parking, the Zoo is on the hook for the remainder of the expansion cost, which, to this point, has been subsidized solely by admission fees, said the Zoo's chief financial officer Grahame Newton.

"When you go from having something for free to charging for it, there's always going to be some backlash," Newton said, adding the Zoo hopes to mitigate the bad feelings for at least their 80,000 members and repeat visitors through a form of discount that could be built in to or "coupled" with membership fees.

The plan still must pass through the Zoo's board of directors and the city's community and protective services committee today before heading to general council.

-neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

»news In Brief

» **AWARD** The University of Calgary will award two women with the prestigious Arch Award — the highest award for alumni. Susan Smith has spent 10 years working on health care programs in impoverished areas of Mexico. Robyn Hauck mounted a campaign that helped lead to Calgary city council's ban on smoking in public places.

METRO CALGARY

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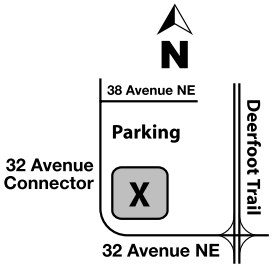

New wage rates
- **Bus operator** $21.46 – $26.83/hr.
- **Community shuttle operator** $18.56/hr.
- **Mechanic** $29.91 – $33.48/hr.
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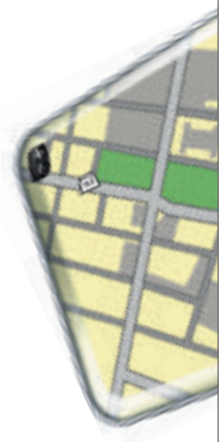

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canada

An exhibit opening today at the National Archives in Ottawa claims that Anne of Green Gables was inspired by American magazines and actresses. REUTERS

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Ontario pushes plan

McGuinty urges Ottawa to join climate fight

following Kyoto

» A proposed federal scheme, which requires emission reduction on a percentage basis, uses 2006 emissions levels as the baseline, while the Ontario-Quebec plan has firm reduction targets and employs the 1990 levels of the Kyoto Protocol.

Amid fears a patchwork of climate change strategies would do more harm than good, Premier Dalton McGuinty is urging Ottawa to join with Ontario and Quebec to tackle global warming.

In the wake of Monday's accord with Quebec Premier Jean Charest, McGuinty yesterday called for "a more aggressive approach from the federal government."

"The reason that you're seeing various provinces and, in fact, various American states each in their own way trying to move forward on this is they feel that the leadership that's coming from the national level is not strong enough," the premier said.

His comments came after he and Charest held a joint cabinet meeting in Quebec City and inked an accord on a "cap-and-trade" plan for curbing carbon emissions.

Under the regional plan that could come into effect as early as July 1, 2010, companies producing fewer greenhouse gas emissions than their caps permit could sell their unused quota on the open market to big polluters that exceed their emissions caps. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vancouver **The gift of art**

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

A copy of an 18th century painting by Spanish artist José Cardero is unveiled at Vancouver City Hall yesterday. Spanish Ambassador to Canada Mariano Alonso-Buron, right, presented the painting as a gift to the city of Vancouver on behalf of the Spanish government.

»news In Brief

» **DONATION** In the largest known donation to cancer research in Canadian history, three of the heirs to the Thomson media fortune will give $37.5 million to Princess Margaret Hospital over five years, the hospital announced yesterday. The donors are Linda Campbell, Gaye Farncombe and Susan Grange, granddaughters of late Thomson Corp. magnate Roy Thomson. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ottawa scraps controversial test

Immigrants will not be required to pass English trial

Ottawa has dropped its idea of making all immigrants take a rigorous British-made language test to get into the country.

"They realized the ludicrousness of it," Alex Stojicevic, chair of the immigration section of the Canadian Bar Association, said yesterday.

> « *Telling Americans they need a language test to come to Canada makes us look silly.* »
>
> *Canadian Bar Association's Alex Stojicevic*

"The optics of it were terrible. Telling Americans they need a language test to come to Canada makes us look silly."

Stojicevic three times wrote to Immigration Minister Diane Finley to object to the rule change and Monday night got a call from Leah Olson, Finley's senior policy adviser, with the news the immigration lawyers had won.

Torstar News Service published a story Monday about the three-hour International English Language Testing System exam created at the University of Cambridge in England.

Immigration officials championed its impartiality and efficiency, but language experts objected to its academic tone and un-Canadian content. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Soldier killed in firefight

A Canadian platoon commander was shot and killed this morning during a firefight with insurgents in the Panjwayi District of southern Afghanistan.

Capt. Richard (Steve) Leary, Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, became the country's 84th military death in Afghanistan.

Leary

Medics fought desperately to save the captain's life, but he was pronounced dead on arrival at Kandahar Air Field.

"On behalf of the entire Task Force, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Capt. Leary," a somber Col. Jamie Cade, deputy commander of Task Force Afghanistan, told reporters this evening.

"Capt. Leary was what we in uniform are expected to be — he was a soldier and he was a leader."

Those under his command were stricken by the loss, added Maj. Jay Janzen. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

bernier breach

Couillard linked to mobster: Sources

DRUGS Before Julie Couillard's liaison with former foreign affairs minister Maxime Bernier and her brushes with the biker underworld, she was romantically linked with a mobster well-known to Toronto's criminal circles.

Sources say the 38-year-old Couillard dated convicted Montreal drug importer Antonio Volpato on and off between 1991 and 1993. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

politics

Commons votes to let deserters stay

NON-BINDING U.S. soldiers who have deserted the military because of the Iraq war should be allowed to stay permanently in Canada, Parliament voted in a non-binding motion yesterday.

The three opposition parties backed a motion that said the government should allow conscientious objectors to stay in Canada. REUTERS

vancouver

Stolen art likely to be sold, not melted

THEFT Whoever stole $2 million in art from a Vancouver museum is likely trying to sell the collection, not melt it down for the gold, as had first been feared, police said yesterday, adding that they believe the heist was locally planned. REUTERS

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‘Great period in life’

Boomers now enjoying sex more than ever: Poll

Single baby boomers are enjoying better sex, are open to threesomes and are not looking to get married, according to a new poll.

Forty-six per cent of the 1,000 Canadians and Americans born between 1946 and 1964 who were questioned in the survey said they enjoyed sex more now than they did during their 20s and 30s.

“I think we’re looking at a generation that really sees this time as a great period in life,” said Marina Glogovac, of the online dating site Lavalife which conducted the poll.

“Most of these people are looking to enhance their lives, so they’re not really sitting there and saying I’m desperate, I need to live with someone. Their attitude is, we want to meet interesting people.”

group activity

» Twenty-five per cent of sexually active boomers surveyed were open to participating in a threesome.

There are an estimated 85 million baby boomers in North America, according to the American Association of Retired People (AARP), comprising nearly 28 per cent of the adult population. About 30 per cent of boomers are single.

REUTERS

Ottawa **Canada Day performers**

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

DRUM! musician Jeremiah Sparks, the NCC’s Marie Lemay, Heritage Minister Josee Verner and Chicken Farmers of Canada chairman David Fuller, from left, reveal the Canada Day roster of acts at an event in the Chateau Laurier yesterday.

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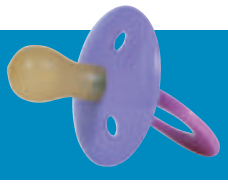


Their chests rise and fall and you can hear a tiny heartbeat, but these babies for sale over the Internet are not alive. "Reborn babies" are disconcertingly life-like baby dolls made of vinyl, which have become popular with collectors, nostalgic grandparents and grieving parents. REUTERS

Obama clinches nomination

Illinois senator to lead Democrats in White House race

Barack Obama captured the Democratic presidential nomination yesterday, capping a rapid rise from political obscurity to become the first black to lead a major U.S. party into a race for the White House.

Rival Hillary Clinton, a former first lady who entered the race 17 months ago as a heavy favorite, congratulated Obama but did not concede. The New York senator said she would consult with party leaders and supporters to determine her next move.

A surge of support from uncommitted delegates helped give Obama the 2,118 votes he needed to clinch the nomination as the lengthy Democratic battle concluded with an Obama victory in Montana and a Clinton win in South Dakota.

Obama will be crowned the Democratic nominee at the convention in August and will face Republican John McCain in November's election to choose a successor to President Bush.

"Tonight, we mark the end of one historic journey with the beginning of another," Obama told a victory celebration in St. Paul, Minnesota, at the site of the Republican convention in September. REUTERS

Clinton as VP?

» Clinton told New York members of Congress she would be open to becoming Obama's vice-presidential running mate, and her backers turned up the pressure on Obama to pick her as his No. 2.

JEFF HAYNES/REUTERS

Barack Obama waves to the audience as his wife Michelle claps, at his South Dakota and Montana presidential primary election night rally in St. Paul, Minn., yesterday.

Euthanasia tourists buy pet sedative in Mexico

Elderly foreign tourists are tapping Mexican pet shops for a drug used by veterinarians to put cats and dogs to sleep that has become the sedative of choice for euthanasia campaigners.

Tourists from as far as Australia have travelled to Mexico to buy liquid pentobarbital, which causes a painless death in humans in less than an hour, right-to-die advocates say.

Clutching photos of the bottled drug to overcome a lack of Spanish, they have maps sketched by euthanasia activists to locate back-street pet shops and veterinary supply stores near the U.S. border. There they can buy a bottle for $35 to $50, enough for one suicide, no questions asked. REUTERS

Texas **Kids head home**

MIKE STONE/REUTERS

A woman from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, leaves the Catholic Charities Assessment Center in Fort Worth, Texas, yesterday. More than 400 kids from a polygamist sect began returning to their families on Monday after a judge lifted her order giving the state custody of them.

China considers next step

Obstacles slowing reconstruction, relief efforts

Top Chinese officials considered yesterday a plan to rebuild earthquake-ravaged parts of the country's southwest while protests by grieving parents and dangerous quake lakes cast a shadow over relief efforts.

water buildup

» Troops and disaster officials have also been seeking to defuse threats from dangerous build-ups of water created by quake-caused landslides choking rivers.

The earthquake centred in Sichuan province has killed 69,107 people and displaced more than 15 million, according to official figures yesterday. The death toll is likely to rise with 18,230 still listed as missing.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has nonetheless vowed to move quickly to rebuild towns and villages devastated by the May 12 quake. He and other officials met to discuss a reconstruction plan for the region, state television reported. REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **GAZA** Hamas expanded its administration in the Gaza Strip yesterday in an effort to strengthen its hold on the coastal territory, a senior official from the Islamist group said. In the West Bank, Fatah spokesman Fahmi al-Zarir said Hamas's move would deepen divisions and said the Islamist group was not serious in its calls for reconciliation with Abbas.

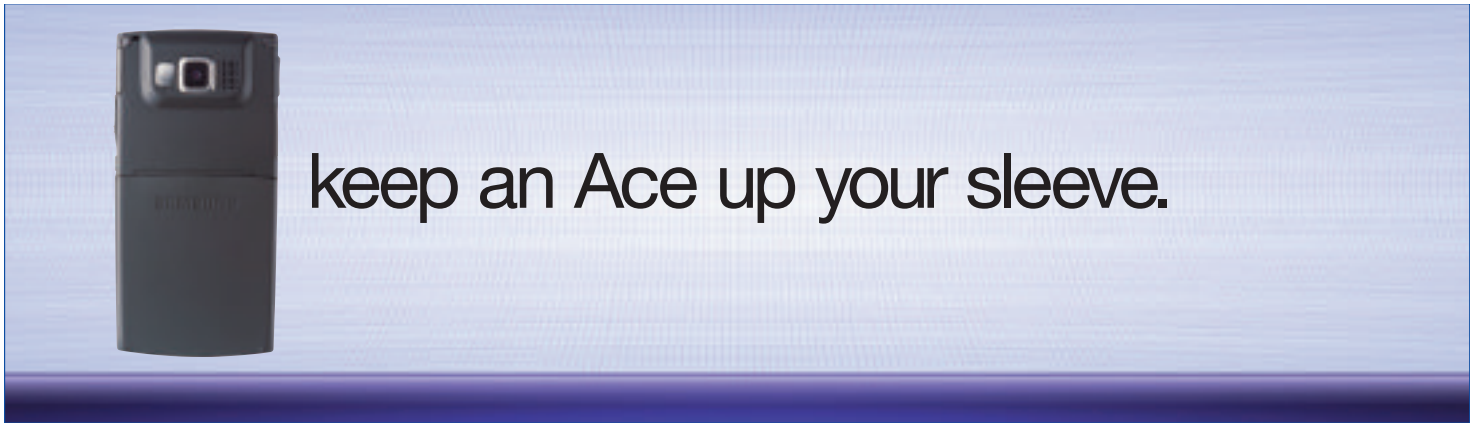
» **BIRD FLU** Tyson Foods Inc, the second largest U.S. chicken producer, said yesterday it will destroy about 15,000 chickens in Arkansas exposed to a mild strain of bird flu, and while there was no risk to human health the news sent its shares lower.

» **MARRIAGE** U.S. opponents of gay marriage pushed their campaign on both coasts this week, setting it up as a potential hot-button issue in the Nov. 4 elections around the country. REUTERS

Britain

U.K. government amends terror bill

POLITICS Britain's interior minister Jacqui Smith offered concessions yesterday to try to save Prime Minister Gordon Brown from a parliamentary defeat over plans to extend the time limit for holding terrorism suspects without charge. REUTERS



UN takes on food crisis

Seeking plan to prevent the spread of hunger

OSWALDO RIVAS/REUTERS

The child of a food vendor stands next to rice for sale at a market in Managua, Nicaragua, yesterday.

A UN global food crisis summit will draw up an emergency plan today to mobilize aid, reduce trade barriers and invest in farming in poor countries to stop the spread of hunger threatening nearly one billion people.

"We commit to eliminating hunger and to securing food for all, today and tomorrow," read a draft declaration from the three-day Rome summit, whose opening session yesterday was attended by leaders of about 44 nations.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation called the emergency meeting amid soaring commodity prices that threaten to add as many as 100 million more people to the 850 million already going hungry and destabilize governments.

The cost of major food commodities has doubled over the last couple of years, with rice, corn and wheat at record highs. The OECD sees prices retreating from their current peaks but still up to 50 per cent higher in the coming decade.

After lofty speeches from leaders yesterday, many of whom blamed trade barriers and biofuels, championed by Brazil and the U.S., for driving up prices, delegates will hold talks today to prepare a declaration for release tomorrow.

The draft declaration promised to "stimulate food production and to increase investment in agriculture, to address obstacles to food access and to use the planet's resources sustainably for present and future generations." REUTERS

on the defensive

» The United States defended itself from accusations of culpability in the world food crisis yesterday and said it was not getting enough credit for being the world's largest provider of food aid.

U.S. to require electronic data

The U.S. will make visa-free foreign travellers provide electronic information about themselves and their trip before they depart, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said yesterday.

The requirement is to take effect on Jan. 12, 2009, and is mandated under legislation passed last year implementing anti-terrorism recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission. The step is the latest in an overhaul of U.S. travel regulations since the Sept. 11 attacks. Some measures have raised concerns in Europe over individual privacy and Washington's strategy of conducting bilateral negotiations with member countries over visa-free status.

The requirement affects people from so-called visa-waiver countries who travel to the U.S. without visas, for temporary business or pleasure. They will need to provide the requested information — travel plans and basic biographical data — before departure and obtain an electronic travel authorization before they board a plane or ship. REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **POLITICS** The United States suspended talks with Sudan on normalizing relations yesterday, saying leaders from the north and south were not serious about ending clashes that have stoked fears of a return to civil war.

» **CHILE** A Chilean judge yesterday reopened the murder case of beloved leftist folk singer Victor Jara, who was tortured and killed in the early days of the 17-year dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

» **WINE** A natural compound found in red wine may protect the heart against the effects of the aging process, researchers said yesterday. REUTERS

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An Indian man, frustrated at failing to find employment, ordered the murder of his father to get his government job, a day before the victim was to retire, police said yesterday. The man had planned to claim his father's job on the grounds that he died while still at work, police said. REUTERS

Senators decry U.S. arms costs

Report shows $295 billion in cost overruns

Weapons costs have continued to soar despite reforms efforts, but the problem has now now reached crisis proportions and must be addressed by the Pentagon, Congress and industry, U.S. senators said yesterday.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, sounded the alarm at a hearing yesterday. He cited a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report which said cost overruns on 95 major weapons programs now amounted to a staggering $295 billion — money Levin said could have been spent on additional weapons for U.S. troops.

"For $295 billion, we could buy, at current prices, two new aircraft carriers for $10 billion each and 8 Virginia class submarines for $2.5 billion each, and 500 V-22 Ospreys for $120 million each, and 500 Joint Strike Fighters for $110 million each, and 10,0000 MRAPs (mine-resistant vehicles) for $1.4 million each — all of that and still have enough money left over to pay for the entire $130 billion Future Combat System program," Levin said. REUTERS

> « *For $295 billion, we could buy, at current prices, two new aircraft carriers for $10 billion each and 8 Virginia class submarines for $2.5 billion each, and 500 V-22 Ospreys for $120 million each.* »
> *Carl Levin, Chairman Senate Armed Services Committee*

Home sale **Buy one, get one free**

MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

Dawn Berry of Michael Crews Developments shows off a $1.8 million home in San Pasqual Valley, Calif., yesterday. The San Diego developer, desperate to clear inventory, is offering home buyers a buy-one-get-one-free scheme in a market beset with foreclosures and plummeting sales. A row home valued at $400,000 comes free with a $1.6 million luxury estate home in Escondido in northern San Diego County.

TV, guns, fridges in Brazil jail

Luxury cell life ends with raid

With a plasma TV, a DVD player, $172,000 US in cash, gym equipment, two refrigerators and a couple of guns, Genilson Lino da Silva had everything he needed for a luxurious life — in his Brazilian prison cell.

It came to an end on Monday when his cell, which also contained a king-sized bed, was raided in a police operation against drug traffickers in the northern city of Salvador.

Officials said Da Silva, also known by his nickname "Leg," was serving time as the biggest drug trafficker in Bahia state. He was reported as saying the money in his cell was from old robberies and gambling in prison.

Paulo Gomes, a state prosecutor, told reporters he was not surprised that kidnappings, murders, and drug trafficking were being directed from inside the jail. "The surprise was finding 280,000 reais ($172,000) inside a cell." REUTERS

Madison plans scaled back

Vornado Realty Trust executives yesterday laid out alternative plans that call for a scaled back redevelopment of New York's Madison Square Garden and the Hotel Pennsylvania, after ambitious projects were killed by government delays and the credit crisis.

It also said it plans to close the Times Square Virgin Megastore.

Vornado owns 8 million square feet of property in Pennsylvania Plaza district.

The real estate investment trust said it may renovate the Hotel Pennsylvania in midtown and add about three floors of retail space which would connect to the adjacent Manhattan Mall, which Vornado owns and one of the few traditional indoor malls in Manhattan. REUTERS

Salmonella

U.S. probing food poisoning

OUTBREAK Health authorities are looking into an outbreak of Salmonella food poisoning in nine U.S. states, with illnesses blamed in two of the states, Texas and New Mexico, on eating raw tomatoes, officials said yesterday.

About 30 more people have been sickened in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas and Utah, and authorities said they are investigating to see if the outbreaks are linked. REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **ART** Using a revamped antique pedal organ, David Byrne has transformed the empty Battery Maritime Building in New York into a musical instrument that visitors can play. The art installation sprouts colorful tubes that lead to metal beams, columns, pipes, electrical conduits and other elements of the building. Pressing a key triggers different sounds.

» **RECOVERING** Sen. Edward Kennedy is "recuperating well" from brain surgery and should be released within a week from Duke University Medical Center, his office said yesterday. REUTERS

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business

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Microsoft Corp. said yesterday it plans to test release a feature complete version of its Internet Explorer 8 web browser in August to ordinary web users. REUTERS

pharmaceuticals

Biovail slams slate of founder Melnyk

PROPOSAL Biovail Corp. urged shareholders to reject a dissident proxy circular from the company's biggest shareholder and founder, Eugene Melnyk, in which he proposes his own slate of directors.

"There are a lot of pluses and minuses here (in Melnyk's plan), and I think it's going to be emotionally driven," said one analyst. REUTERS

GM to shut Ont. plant

Three-year deal signed in May

Workers at the Oshawa, Ont., truck plant that General Motors Corp. plans to close next year, affecting at least 1,000 jobs, said yesterday they felt betrayed, having signed a new contract with GM just two weeks earlier.

"It's an insult to the union membership," said one worker. "We were promised a new line of vehicles—they've totally reneged on that."

Yesterday, in Delaware, GM CEO Rick Wagoner said the automaker will close the Oshawa plant, along with three other operations in the United States and Mexico. The Oshawa plant is set to shut down in the second half of 2009.

"This is a complete violation of our recent collective bargaining agreement," said CAW President Buzz Hargrove. REUTERS

job-sharing negotiation

» The Canadian Auto Workers union reached a three-year contract deal with GM in mid May, agreeing to a wage freeze and a shift rotation at the truck plant that would see up to 2,600 workers share about 1,300 full-time jobs.

»news In Brief

» **SPORTS** The NHL said it signed a six-year broadcast and digital rights deal in Canada with TSN. The NHL also said it has renewed its marketing agreement with Anheuser-Busch through the 2010-2011 season. REUTERS

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metro ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Energy audit saves money

Home test evaluates efficiency of home, details improvements

By **BRIAN TOWIE**
for Metro Calgary

Your house could be polluting the air more than you think, and it could be costing you a lot of money.

If you can't figure out why your energy bills are through the roof, your home could be wasting power and emitting more greenhouse gases than normal, and it could be time for a home energy audit. It's a test that evaluates the energy-efficiency of your home and details improvements you can make that could potentially reduce your home's GHG output and save you money in the process.

Jamie Shipley, senior research consultant for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) says owners of houses 40 years old and up should seriously consider getting a home energy audit, which will pinpoint specific areas leaking the most power.

> *« If Home A's energy bills are $1,000 per year cheaper than Home B, then that's the one I'm probably going to buy. »*
> Jamie Shipley, CMHC

"If you're concerned about lowering the operating cost of your home or saving energy, the first thing your need to know is where you're losing the most energy so you can focus your budget to the areas where you'll get the most bang for your buck. An energy audit will pinpoint the best areas to attack your house," he said.

The areas commonly susceptible to leakage, Shipley notes, are basements and wall outlets such as doors and windows. Sometimes these areas can have tiny tears in the walls, ceilings and floors that are innocent enough, but put together could make hole as big as 1.5 square feet in your house that spews energy you could otherwise use. The website for National Clean Air Day (*cleanairday.com*) says using caulking and weather stripping to seal these holes can save you up to 20 per cent on your energy bill.

Some provinces are even willing to lend a helping hand: Ontario, for example, runs a program that subsidizes 50 per cent of the cost of an energy audit, up to a maximum of $150 — you don't even have to carry out the advised retrofits on your house to collect the rebate.

Homebuyers who are new to the market are also becoming more concerned with how energy efficient a house is, Shipley notes, adding that while curb appeal still trumps all, energy bills can make or break a deal nowadays.

"They always ask, or should ask, for a copy of the energy bills for that house, and that becomes part of the equation of whether they feel that house is one they want to buy, that's really a relationship of how energy efficient that home is," Shipley said.

"If Home A's energy bills are $1,000 per year cheaper than Home B, then that's the one I'm probably going to buy."

» For more information, visit the Office of Energy Efficiency's website at *oee.nrcan.gc.ca*.

understanding r-value

» R-value is the measurement of a material's resistance to the transfer of heat through it. Generally, the higher the R-value of a home building material, the more resistant it is to heat passing through it — keeping heat contained in the winter and outside in the summer, for example, and therefore a more energy efficient material to use.

» "Wood has an R-value, though not high," says Jamie Shipley, senior research consultant for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. "Fiberglass has an R-value per inch. For example, multiply R 3.2 per inch by how many inches you'll have in a wall or attic, then that will tell you the R-value of that assembly."

BRIAN TOWIE/FOR METRO CALGARY

SOMOS/VEER

Using caulking and weather stripping to seal windows can save you up to 20 per cent on your energy bill.

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A home computer, monitor, and printer can use up to 200 watts of electricity. Set your monitor to go into "sleep" mode if it is idle for more than five minutes, and your computer to do the same after 15 minutes.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA

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Conserving energy can be easy

Simple practices help you go green

BARRY GRAY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Compost leaves; burning them increases carbon dioxide emissions.

clean air tips

» Use potpourri instead of aerosol-based sprays.
» Buy locally grown produce. It has a lower associated pollution cost from transportation.
» Compost your leaves and brush. Burning them will increase carbon dioxide emissions.
» Buy a push lawn mower. It's good exercise and reduces carbon dioxide emissions.
» Don't blow your leaves — rake them instead. Your ears and your neighbours will thank you, and you will reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
» Make sure your car is properly tuned up and your tires are at the right pressure to ensure optimal fuel efficiency.
» Encourage carpooling when possible! Put a map up in the office to encourage carpooling and make it easier for riders to connect.

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT CANADA

RON ALBERTSON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Take advantage of the warm weather and hang laundry out to dry to conserve energy.

Energy conservation is serious business and something the whole family can take part in. Conserving energy is easy, especially if every family member does their part. To help your family members become energy conservation experts, consider implementing the following energy saving practices into your family's routine:

» **INSTALL A** programmable thermostat to help regulate the temperature of your home. Setting the temperature a degree or two higher when no one is home during the day in the summer will contribute to energy savings. Having pre-determined temperature settings will also prevent family members from adjusting the temperature on a whim.

» **TURN OFF** the tap while brushing your teeth. There is no reason to keep the water on, and turning it off can save up to eight gallons of water. This practice is another way to get the kids involved in conservation.

» **UP TO** 30 per cent of the cooling in your home is lost through poorly fitted windows and doors. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors and upgrading to energy efficient windows will conserve energy. Also, make sure everyone in the family closes doors when entering and exiting the home to prevent the cool air from escaping.

» **SWITCH FROM** incandescent lighting to high-efficiency compact fluorescent bulbs. They use at least two thirds less energy and have a significantly longer bulb life — almost 10 times longer. Also, ask all family members to turn off lights whenever they leave a room and put the kids in charge of ensuring every family member is light-conscious.

» **INSTALL A** low-flow showerhead to reduce hot water consumption. Even a 10-minute shower with a conventional showerhead can use up to 42 gallons of water. Low-flow showerheads are easy to install and use far less water. Go the extra mile and set a household shower-time limit.

» **KEEP THE KIDS** from standing with the refrigerator door open while choosing after-school snacks by having them decide what they want to eat before opening the fridge.

» **TAKE ADVANTAGE** of the warm summer air and hang laundry out to dry. Sheets hanging on a clothesline also make great backyard mazes, which will surely be appreciated by younger family members. Check your local municipal bylaws before installing a permanent clothesline.

» **UNPLUG VAMPIRE** electronics — devices including mobile phone chargers and computers that draw power from outlets even when they're in stand-by mode. You would be surprised at how much energy your computer uses even when it's left in "sleep" or standby mode.

» More information on this topic is available online at *www.directenergy.com* or toll-free at 1-888-334-8221.

NEWS CANADA

»celebrate

What is Clean Air Day?
Celebrated on the first Wednesday in June every year since 1999, Clean Air Day is all about the stuff we breathe, and the promotion of good health across the country. The signature program of Clean Air Day is the federal government's Commuter Challenge. For the 2008 challenge, you can register to a sustainable commute — such as walking, cycling, carpooling, taking transit and telecommuting — and the website will calculate your emissions savings.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

today's commuter challenge stats

» **Registered (participating) users:** 23,438 (11,759)
» **Registered communities:** 558
» **Registered workplaces:** 4,317
» **Total kilometres saved:** 404,941
» **Total emmisions (GHG) saved:** 58,269 kg
» **Total emmisions (Nox) saved:** 283 kg
» **Total emmisions (PM 2.5) saved:** 2 kg
» For more updates, or to register, check out the National Commuter Challenge website at *www.commuterchallenge.ca*.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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sports

Tampa Bay Lightning head coach John Tortorella, left, who orchestrated the franchise's only Stanley Cup in 2004, was fired by the team yesterday. The Lightning were last overall in the NHL this season. REUTERS

Veteran Pilon leading the way

At 32, lineman knows what it takes to succeed

By **DAN TOTH**
for Metro Calgary

For nine seasons Calgary Stampeders offensive lineman Jeff Pilon has seen the greybeards come and go.

He watched and learned from some of the best to ever play in the Canadian Football League, stashing the lessons in the back of his brain while building his own resume as one of the game's steadiest performers.

Slowly over time veteran O-linemen Rocco Romano, Jamie Crysdale and Jay McNeil all walked out of the Calgary locker-room for good, leaving Pilon as the longest-serving Stampeder currently wearing Red and White.

How does it feel? Truthfully, Pilon admits, it can hurt like heck just getting out of bed in the morning but he's enjoying his new status as one of the Stamps' cagey old-timers.

"It's a little bit harder to do at 32 and there's 20-year-old guys (in camp), so it takes a little bit more effort but you've got to still get the job done," noted the right tackle, suddenly a senior citizen with McNeil's off-season retirement.

"All I care about is I get some respect and everything else will fall into place. You know the game, not like the young guys running around like a chicken with their heads cut off. You know when to do that when you're older, when to turn it on and off. It's part of the evolution of being a football player, but it's a job and you have to treat it like that."

Making his seniority at Stampeders training camp even more prominent is the release of veteran guard Bobby Singh, who failed to pass the physical, while left tackle Garrick Jones left for Edmonton as a free agent. Now Pilon is the man a gang of youngsters will look to for leadership as the Stampeders rebuilt the offensive line.

Prospects hoping to win a spot include rookie draft picks Dimitri Tsoumpas and Jesse Newman.

"If you want to call me a leader, just follow what I do," said Pilon, who also works as a salesman in the oil and gas industry. "If you don't want to study, don't want to work hard, then get the hell out of here. If you're a man, if you're a professional, you're getting paid and it's just like a job in the real world. If you don't do your job, you're fired."

ROBIN KUNISKI FOR METRO CALGARY

Ryan Thelwell takes a flying leap during a drill yesterday at Stampeders spring training camp at McMahon Stadium. The team has a week to prepare for its first preseason game, next Friday against the Eskimos.

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metro Do it daily.

Pens, Wings ready to go

Triple-OT game won't keep teams down for long

MIKE CASSESE/REUTERS

A Red Wings fan reacts after their triple-overtime loss to the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup final on Monday in Detroit.

The Detroit Red Wings insisted yesterday they lost little sleep after their Stanley Cup dreams came up 35 seconds short before a gut-wrenching triple overtime 4-3 defeat by the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Leading the best-of-seven series 3-1 and clinging to a 3-2 lead with the final minute of Game 5 ticking down on Monday, the Stanley Cup had been polished and the champagne put on ice.

But just as the capacity crowd at the Joe Louis arena was getting ready to celebrate, the Penguins' Maxime Talbot spoiled the party by scoring with just 35 seconds remaining in regulation to push the game into overtime.

Petr Sykora then delivered the knockout blow deep into the third overtime, sending the two teams back to Pittsburgh for Game 6 tonight with the Detroit lead sliced to 3-2.

"It's nice to be close to it (the Stanley Cup)," Detroit coach Mike Babcock told reporters yesterday. "Be nicer to have it.

"You never expect it to be easy. You knew it was going to be a battle, and it is."

If there was any disappointment in coming so close to their goal in the Detroit dressing room it was replaced by confidence by the time the Red Wings arrived in Steeltown.

The Wings have won all three of their previous playoff series on the road this season and say they would have no problem clinching the Stanley Cup at the Igloo.

History also remains firmly on Detroit's side. Only once has a team erased a 3-1 deficit to claim the Cup and that was the Toronto Maple Leafs 66 years ago.

The battered Penguins have given themselves a tough act to follow, the triple overtime thriller being hailed as one of the Stanley Cup final's greatest games.

A Game 6 win would almost certainly require another Herculean effort, with several players nursing injuries.

"It was definitely a tough one last night but we're just happy to really still be playing," said Penguins captain Sidney Crosby, a native of Cole Harbour. "I think any time you go through something like that, come out with a win, to see the way everyone kept battling and didn't give up, it certainly means a lot to everyone.

"We're still here, still battling, and we still have an opportunity." REUTERS

The Boston Red Sox placed slugger David Ortiz, right, on the 15-day disabled list yesterday, retroactive to June 1 with a wrist injury. Ortiz has been diagnosed with a partial tear of the ECU tendon sheath in his left wrist. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hot ratings lift leagues

YORK REPORT
MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

The economy sucks, as you know, but sports leagues are prospering.

Attendance figures in MLB, the NHL and the NBA are all up while their television ratings have increased significantly.

Viewership for NBA playoff games has risen a whopping 28 per cent from last season. Interest is so high for the league's championship series between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Boston Celtics that ABC is charging an NBA record $400,000 US for 30-second commercials — and there's a full waiting list of companies wishing to become sponsors.

And, despite a publicized opinion from golfer **Tiger Woods** that "no one watches hockey any more," the NHL's Stanley Cup games between the Detroit Red Wings and the Pittsburgh Penguins have drawn markedly improved ratings.

"Watching sports on TV has become a popular pastime again," said **Ed Erhardt**, chief of marketing and sales for ABC and ESPN. "It could be directly related to the economy. It's clearly a lot cheaper to stay home and watch sports on TV than to go out for other forms of entertainment."

» Speaking of ESPN, there are rumblings that Torontonian **Hazel Mae** may be en route to the network now that her four-year stint at NESN has ended.

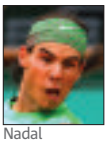
Mae, who's nearing 40, got herself in a bit of hot water at the New England network after suggesting in public that she would quit if management forbid her from dating sports figures, something she did frequently while anchoring at NESN and, previously, at Rogers Sportsnet.

» And, despite Tiger's hockey-apathy theory, ex-baseball superstar **George Brett**, part-owner of the junior-hockey franchise in Spokane, Wash., is so certain that the NHL would sell well in Kansas City that he has let it be known he's eager to become an investor should the NHL ever expand to the city, which it has been contemplating ... I think **Jose Canseco** is losing it. The ex-slugger has challenged Boston Red Sox pitcher **Curt Schilling** to a celebrity boxing match. Why? Canseco thinks Schilling is a snitch and a phony, and claims the bloody sock that helped make him famous was actually smeared with ketchup ... The real reason the Toronto Argonauts recently dealt kicker **Noel Prefontaine** to the Edmonton Eskimos: He told them he would no longer be able to play hard because of his concussion history ... And did you know road teams in the NHL have won 10 of the past 12 overtime games in the Stanley Cup series and are 15-4 since 1990?

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

»sports In Brief

» **TENNIS** Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic set up the semifinal clash the French Open fans wanted yesterday as Three-time champion Nadal bulldozed his way to a 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 win fellow Spaniard Nicolas Almagro and Djokovic battled to a 7-5, 7-6, 7-5 win over Latvian Ernests Gulbis.



Nadal

» **MLB** Arizona left-hander Randy Johnson passed Roger Clemens for second on the all-time strikeouts list last night by retiring Milwaukee's Mike Cameron for career strikeout 4,673. Johnson trails only Nolan Ryan, who sits atop the list with 5,714 career strikeouts.

» **NBA** The Detroit Pistons head coach Flip Saunders was fired yesterday despite leading the club to the Eastern Conference finals in each of his three seasons.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL
PITTSBURGH VS. DETROIT
Game 6 — Tonight
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 6
*Game 7 — Saturday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 6
(Detroit leads series 3-2)
(* – if necessary)

NBA

NBA FINALS
BOSTON VS. L.A. LAKERS
Game 1 — Tomorrow
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7
Game 2 — Sunday
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7
Game 3 — Tuesday, June 10
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 7
Game 4 —Thursday, June 12
Boston at L.A. Lakers, 7
Game 5 —Sunday, June 15
*Boston at L.A. Lakers, 7
Game 6 — Tuesday, June 17
*L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7
Game 7 —Thursday, June 19
*L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7
(* – if necessary)

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto 9 N.Y. Yankees 3
Boston 7 Tampa Bay 4
Chicago W. Sox 9 Kansas City 5
Baltimore 5 Minnesota 3
Texas 12 Cleveland 7
Detroit at Oakland
L.A. Angels at Seattle
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta 5 Florida 4
Houston 2 Pittsburgh 0
Milwaukee 7 Arizona 1
Philadelphia 3 Cincinnati 2
St. Louis 6 Washington 1
Chicago Cubs at San Diego
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco
TODAY'S GAMES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Detroit at Oakland, 1:35
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 2:40
Tampa Bay at Boston, 5:05
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees, 5:05
Cleveland at Texas, 6:05
Baltimore at Minnesota, 6:10
Kansas City at Chicago W. Sox, 6:11
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Florida at Atlanta, 11:05
Arizona at Milwaukee, 12:05
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers, 1:10
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco, 1:45
Houston at Pittsburgh, 5:05
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 5:05
St. Louis at Washington, 5:10
Chicago Cubs at San Diego, 8:05

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metro
REALestate

The Calgary housing market saw a spike of 390 per cent in listings in the last year, with a 31 per cent drop in prices for single family homes and 35 per cent for condos. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Going long with a mortgage

Longer terms let more buyers into home market

By **CANDICE WARD**
for Metro Calgary

Nowadays, mortgages last longer than marriages — and now you can commit to your home even longer.

Home buying has become slightly more reasonable with the extension of mortgage amortization, offering buyers the option to extend the period to up to 40-years.

"This means that buyers will be able to qualify for a larger mortgage enabling more consumers with modest incomes to get into the housing market and start building some equity, rather than paying a landlord rent," says Tammy Laframboise, owner of Verico: Mortgage Planning Centre Inc.

This has become a popular option with many Calgary buyers because it offers lower monthly payments, thus making housing seem more affordable in a city where house prices have skyrocketed.

The extended amortization mortgages have the same options available to traditional 25-year mortgages with the exception of slightly higher mortgage insurance premiums.

"With housing prices as high as they are this means that many first time home buyers that would not have qualified under the traditional 25-year program can now qualify to purchase a home," says Laframboise.

When the housing market in Calgary finally began to cool, Ashley Cross, 20, and her boyfriend decided it was time to upgrade from their condo and move into a house.

"There was no way we could afford a home our size with a 25-year mortgage, even with the two incomes," says Cross, office manager for an architecture and interior design company.

With the 40-year mortgage, Cross and her boyfriend were able to get into the home they wanted and were able to save about $500 a month on the mortgage payment.

"We had no choice, prices are still ridiculous out there for young buyers," says Cross.

The one major downfall to extending the amortization period of a mortgage is the amount of interest that builds up.

> *« With housing prices as high as they are, this means that many first time home buyers that would not have qualified under the traditional 25-year program can now qualify to purchase a home. »*
>
> *Tammy Laframboise*

According to calculations done by Laframboise, if you took the same home at the same interest rate, assuming it would remain the same, and compared the different terms, this would be the difference between a 25-year term and a 40-year term.

A $400,000 mortgage with an interest rate of 5.19 per cent and a 25-year amortization, the monthly payment on the home would be $2,370.

The total interest paid on the home upon completion of the term would equal $310,963, making the total mortgage $710,963.

The same home under a 40-year mortgage (same interest rate) would have a monthly payment of $1,965 but the total interest paid on the home would total $543,021, bring the cost of the mortgage to $943,021.

Laframboise suggests decreasing the amount of interest paid on the mortgage by making bi-monthly mortgage payments, when financially possible.

"When looking at extended amortizations it is very important to have a knowledgeable mortgage professional to help provide you with all your options," says Laframboise.

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Getting to know your condo board

They have major impact on home

By **CANDICE WARD**
for Metro Calgary

So you decide to buy a condo, assuming you have also just bought a more carefree lifestyle, with no grass to mow or no sidewalk to shovel. But who is taking care of all of those things?

Why it is your friendly neighbourhood condo board, that's who.

It is like moving into a separate little country inside your city, with its own government who takes care of the well-being of common areas of the property and runs on its own set of "laws."

Inside this mini-government it is made up of a small group of resident-owners who have been elected by a to serve as a governing board. In most cases, this group of about three to seven serves a one-year term until re-elected and is responsible for enforcing and maintaining common property.

Depending on the board, they meet every few months to discuss what is needed for the property and decide how to fund these projects.

Knights of the round table is it not, but condo-boards can have a major impact on your lifestyle.

It is always a good idea to familiarize yourself with the rules of the condo before committing to purchasing.

Because the residents in a condo are so diverse, coming from different backgrounds and range in age, it is nearly impossible to please everyone.

Getting involved with your condo-board can ensure that at least some of the issues that concern you are being addressed.

"It is just like being on a PTA (parent teachers association) on a school board," says Judee Plourde from Point of View condos.

One of the major advantages to being a part of a condo-board is you now have a say in some of the day-to-day operations of your condo, or if a major renovation or upgrade is undertaken.

Plourde says there only downfall to joining the board is the time you need to commit to, but says the decision-making abilities make the sacrifice worthwhile.

"You have to lead by example, says Jarod Neufeld of Dark Horse Investments, a real estate investment company.

"So you can't keep a bunch of broken down cars on your lawn."

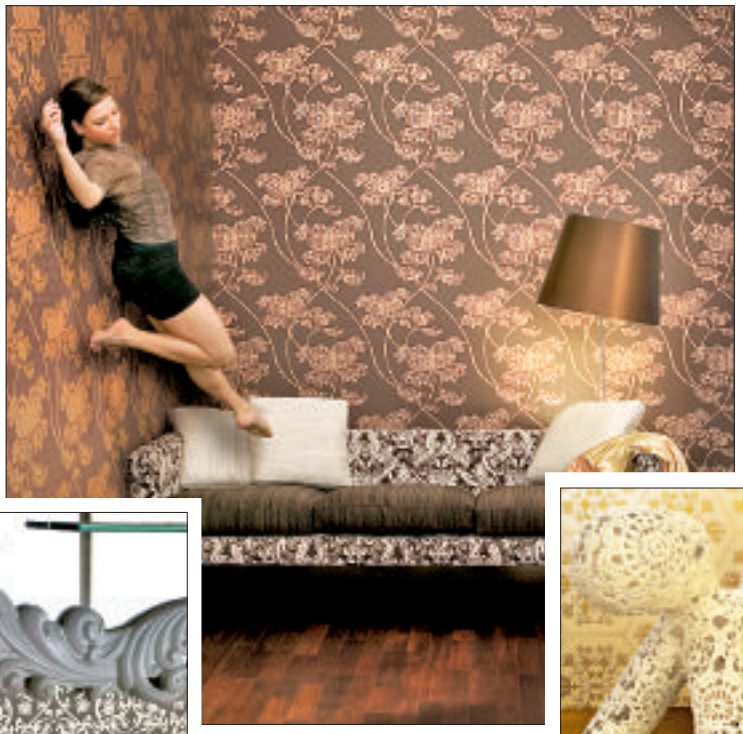
Design superstar takes on wallpaper

Marcel Wanders collaborates with Graham & Brown

Designphiles will be delighted to know that the latest big name to partner with venerable wallpaper house Graham & Brown is none other than Dutch maverick Marcel Wanders.

Wanders has created a series called Couture consisting of eight patterns named after glamorous men and women.

The rolls, which measure 10 m by 75 cm, are available through the G&B website (*grahambrown.com*) for $75 US each. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Above, Alice in chocolate and gold.

Left, Grace in taupe cameo.

Below, Suzanne in amethyst with gold cameo.

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Left, Stella in white and gold with Grace in gold cameo.

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Left, the Altima Coupe for 2008 is a sexy machine with come-hither curves borrowed straight from Nissan's upscale Infiniti G35 gene pool. Above, the interior doesn't stray too far from its roots, sharing the entire dash and centre console with the Altima sedan.

Lean, mean, sexy machine

Altima Coupe as good as it looks

By **B. MCLAUCHLAN**
for Metro Calgary

Ever since the 240SX and Sentra SE disappeared from the scene in the late 1990s, an affordable, good-looking coupe has been missing from Nissan's two-door cupboard.

Enter the Altima Coupe for 2008, a sexy machine with come-hither curves borrowed straight from Nissan's upscale Infiniti G35 gene pool.

Following the pattern set by the Honda Accord and Toyota Camry/Solara, the Altima Coupe is a mechanically identical twin of its sedan sibling, meaning a front-wheel-drive, four- or six-cylinder machine with mild sporting pretensions.

Our tester came equipped with the well-proven 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine mated to Nissan's increasingly prevalent Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) … the latter operated like an automatic but with an infinite choice of gear ratios to get the most of out of powertrain for any given set of driving conditions.

2008 Nissan Altima 2.5 S

- Type: Mid-size 5-pass. coupe FWD
- Price: $27,798
- Engine: 2.5L L4 DOHC
- HP: 175 @ 5,600 rpm
- Torque: 180 @ 3,900 rpm

Highlights:

- Curvaceous looks
- Decent fuel economy

The 175 horsepower this engine produces is class competitive and its torque output is suitably robust, though it does get tamed a tad by the transmission's tuning.

Thankfully the rest of the Altima Coupe's attributes are more evident. Light steering does a decent job of communicating just what's going on with the front wheels. The brakes feel strong and pedal pressure is easily modulated. The 16-inch all-season tires do their job with quiet efficiency, though a softer compound with more grip might help minimize wheelspin on wet roads.

The suspension set-up is comfortable and stable in town or on the highway, doing away with bigger bumps and smaller imperfections with equal poise and composure.

Throw in a set of challenging curves, though, and this curvy coupe also shows it can do a decent dance too.

But the Altima's best claim to fame might rest in its fuel economy numbers. The 2.5 S model with manual transmission gets 8.9 L/100 km (32 mpg) in the city and 6.5 L/100 km (45 mpg) on the highway. The CVT delivers identical city numbers, but slightly lower — 6.3 L/100 km (45 mpg) — out on the open road.

Inside, this coupe doesn't stray too far from its roots, sharing the entire dash and centre console with the Altima sedan.

The gauges are bright and legible while major controls fall readily to hand and all secondary switches feel logically placed and easy to operate.

Pricing for the Altima 2.5 S starts at $27,798 while our nearly loaded tester tipped the scales at $31,498.

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Hip Belgrade deserves all the buzz

Vibrant city ranks among hippest spots in Europe

By **TOM MARCHANT**
for Metro World News

BRANK JOVANOVIC PHOTOS

Left, Belgrade's Jugoslav Drama Theatre by night. Right, café patrons relax in the sunshine.

War-torn Belgrade may sound like an unlikely holiday destination, but the Serbian capital has been busy winning over European travellers who find it's one of the hottest city-break spots on the continent.

Belgrade is a city moving out of its darker past and into its buzzing, vibrant present. It is no longer just synonymous with war-driven devastation, and is now regarded as one of the hippest cities in Europe.

The locals' appetite for a good night out has generated a stir that is attracting the chicest social sets from countries all over the world.

But it's the combination of its incredible cultural past (long before the wars changed people's perception) with the emerging arts and social scene that makes it so alluring to me.

Great nightlife can be found the world over. But when it's interwoven with beguiling architecture that often hugs the banks of one of the world's great rivers — the mighty Danube and its tributary, the Sava —well, then you have something pretty special.

It's hard to describe the potential of such an exciting city in so few words, so here are a few tips on how to get under the skin of the place through one of my favourite methods — finding music and the best bars.

My advice for anyone visiting a city for the first time is to head for the music scene. By doing so, you get a feel for the soul of the place and can plan your trip by discovering where to go from talking to like-minded locals. It works, trust me, and the good news is that Belgrade does music very well.

Serbia might be known for the annual Exit Music festival based in the nearby city of Novi Sad in July, but Belgrade is home to brilliant music all year round. This can be found in any of the serpentine chains of music-playing "splavovi," or floating barge clubs, that roll away into the Serbian night along the confluence of the Danube and the Sava. But it's also found in less-discovered venues.

For a classic insider's experience, head to some of the infamous hidden bars and clubs that were established as dens of escapism for the locals during the Slobodan Milosevic regime. This is where the house music and dance scene survived and actually grew, contributing in large part to the reputation the city has now.

The underground bars could be found in apartments and down alleys where the only sign of one of the best nightlife experiences in the world was the thudding beat coming from behind anonymous doors.

This still continues, and new venues pop up all the time that are so fresh and fleeting that I couldn't list them here. My tip for finding these is to just ask the locals where their current favourite bar and club is. In the meantime, the venues Ben Akiba, Club Mama and The Federal Association Of Globe Trotters will give you a great flavour of the hidden treasures of Belgrade nightlife.

All three have no public markings or phone numbers but ask for them and locals will show you the way. Ben Akiba is based in private apartments, Club Mama in a basement below the Cumicevco Sokace shopping centre and The Federal Association Of Globe Trotters is down a badly-lit staircase where a basement bar of weird and wonderful objects (and clientele) await you.

I could also write volumes on the great local cuisine and which galleries and monuments to visit, but I will leave that for the locals to tell you. After all, you'll need an ice-breaker for your first conversation at the bar.

Tom Marchant is the founder of award-winning travel company Black Tomato, www.blacktomato.co.uk

belgrade

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Paris' annual summer jazz fest begins June 7 and continues each weekend until July 27. It features afternoons of smooth jazz by an impressive lineup of artists in the beautiful surroundings of Parc Floral.

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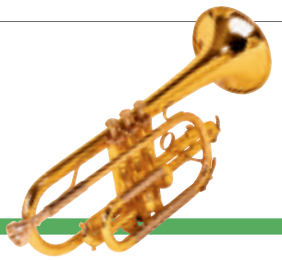

Rounding up the best of Bali

Indonesian island boasts some of Asia's top hotels

By **HERBERT YPMA**
for Metro World News

Of all the more exotic destinations in Asia, the one that seems best able to combine spirituality with modern life is Bali, one of 17,000 islands in the Indonesian archipelago.

Your mobile phone works, the roads are improving, and the tourism infrastructure is in step with demands for luxury, but all of that has not changed the island's mystery and alluring exoticism.

With a hospitable people and natural beauty as well as attractive cultural traditions Bali is always at the top of my list of Asian destinations.

Bali is the most distinctive of the Indonesian islands.

It has remained steadfastly Hindu ever since trade from India brought the faith to this tropical island, and hundreds of years later, Bali developed a particularly colourful and unique version of Hinduism.

It has given Bali a culture rich in colour, craftsmanship and beauty.

The pure attraction of Balinese culture can still be experienced in its spiritual centre of Ubud, in the middle of the island, but the people's gentle and open-minded demeanour is also very well-suited to the racier parts of the island, like the beaches of Seminyak and Nusa Dua in the south. There are many different facets to Bali, and each one has its own merit.

In the heart of the island, Ubud is green and jungly and authentic, and above all very spiritual.

HERBERT YPMA/WWW.SHOOTFROMTHEHIP.COM

Above, The Elysian is located in Bali's most stylish area. Right, Waka Nusa, on Lembongan Island on the east coast.

> *« The Balinese are unflappable — you will never find them grumpy or disagreeable. »*

The northern coast is separated of the rest of Bali by a string of volcanoes.

The west coast has the best surf, the best restaurants and the best shopping.

Seminyak, a beach town on the south west tip is for people who like some action with their tradition, as it's where you'll find all the clubs, bars, boutiques and restaurants including Ku De Ta, *www.kudeta.net*, a must for eating and drinking right on the beach.

On the southeastern tip you'll find Nusa Dua which has the beaches but the east coast is still the most tropical and pristine.

Gangga on the west coast has black volcanic sand and coral reef surfs.

There is tremendous variety on offer, but there is a definite must-do list for Bali. In Ubud you must see a temple ceremony, and for the more active traveller there is rafting down the Ayung River, which gives a first-hand taste of the extraordinary jungle landscape.

A drive from Ubud to Pemuteran in the north would also be on my list, because it takes you through Bali's dormant volcanoes — and a countryside that looks more like Switzerland — ultimately descending down to the black volcanic sand beaches of Bali's northern coast.

The hotels in Bali are some of the best in Asia, not just because of their location but because of their service.

The Balinese are unflappable — you will never find them grumpy or disagreeable, and they appear to have a permanently sunny disposition

Here's a pick of my favourite places to stay in Bali:

NORTHWEST COAST

PURI GANESHA: Here you can enjoy your own private colonial-era villa overlooking the black volcanic beach, complete with your own butler, for the price of a normal business hotel room.

WEST COAST

THE ELYSIAN: The Elysian offers private villas, private pool, private garden with a contemporary signature that is in keeping with Seminyak's status as Bali's most stylish area — all for the price of an average hotel room elsewhere.

SOUTH COAST

BULGARI: Possibly the ultimate honeymoon destination in Asia, set in an extraordinary location perched on a cliff tops of Uluwatu, with an amazing view, and refined Balinese tradition all wrapped up in a signature Italian style.

LEMBONGON ISLAND

WAKA NUSA: Waka Nusa on Lembongan Island on the east coast is a laidback surfing and diving-friendly version of the way Bali used to be, simple, unspoilt and inexpensive with thatched cottages a few steps away from the beach.

UBUD

BEGAWAN GIRI and UMA UBUD: Suspended from a green jungle clad ravine of the Uyung river, Begawan Giri is a spiritual spa sanctuary for the body and mind. Uma Ubud is Begawan Giri's junior — hipper and cheaper.

Herbert Ypma is the author and photographer of Hip Hotels. Visit www.hiphotels.com for more.

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Regent Bal Harbour hotel in Florida is Regent's first property in the United States. It boasts a beautiful beachfront and spa.

Best new hotels of '08

Looking for a hotel that really stands out from the crowd? Travel magazine Travel + Leisure, *www.travelandleisure.com*, has come up with its third annual list of the top 30 best new hotels of 2008. These include:

BANYAN TREE MALDIVES MADIVARU (BEACH HOTEL): Banyan Tree, accessible by seaplane, is built in safari style: elaborate tents, a jungle setting, and its own aquarium lapping from the shore. The price is steep, but this is a camping trip without comparison with staff to indulge your every whim.

J.K. PLACE CAPRI, ITALY (BEACH HOTEL): Surely one of Europe's most stylish recent openings, this nautical design hotel feels like staying at a chic friend's house. Drink Bellinis on the terrace while watching the beach below.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO (BEACH HOTEL): One of the most anticipated hotel openings this year, the winning Mandarin formula of exemplary service, forward-reaching design, a first-rate spa-has taken root in a pristine Mexican coastal environment. Acres of mangrove forest surround 128 boxy white villas.

SIX SENSES HIDEAWAY, YAO NOI, THAILAND (BEACH HOTEL): All the beauty of a remote destination without the hassle of being entirely off the grid. On the island of Yao Noi, 45 minutes by boat from Phuket, guests are surrounded by lush jungle, tiny fishing villages, and untouched beaches.

REGENT BAL HARBOUR, FLORIDA (CITY HOTEL): Regent's first property in the United States has got the beautiful beachfront, the country's first Guerlain Spa and a $4 million art collection. It's all about the signifiers of luxury: Anichini bedding, plasma televisions embedded in bathroom mirrors, and a crystal chandelier.

HOTEL FASANO, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL (CITY HOTEL): In his second property, restaurateur Rogerio Fasano has designed spare, breezy rooms environments with leather-upholstered Mies daybeds, Amazonian wood side tables. REUTERS

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A Georgia judge has sentenced Ne-Yo, left, to 24 hours of community service after the R&B star pleaded guilty to driving without a licence. PEOPLE.COM

Zohan takes Israel to the movies

A look at some of the films dealing with the country

By **RICK McGINNIS**
for Metro Calgary

Given that an Adam Sandler film has roughly the same relationship to reality that a dirty limerick has to a Shakespeare sonnet, the temptation to take a semi-serious look at a film like You Don't Mess With The Zohan, his latest, is hardly obligatory. It's the story of a superhuman Mossad agent who, tired of the apparently endless conflict between Israel and its neighbours, fakes his death and moves to New York to pursue his dream of styling hair at Paul Mitchell's salon.

It also features almost non-stop dick jokes, and possibly the worst Israeli accent ever committed to film, but considering how few Hollywood films deal with Israel or Israelis except in the most cursory fashion, a little glance at Zohan's motley cinematic predecessors is probably more worthwhile than pondering the running MILF and GMILF gags.

Adam Sandler stars in You Don't Mess With The Zohan.

Not counting decades of biblical epics, the keystone of Hollywood's Israel movies is probably Exodus, Otto Preminger's 1960 epic adaptation of Leon Uris' bestselling novel, and a relic of a time when Israel was still riding on a wave of grudging international goodwill. That film, along with Cast A Giant Shadow (1966) and Black Sunday (1976) helped foster the image of the Israeli soldier, commando and secret agent as fantastically resourceful and courageous – an image pushed over into parody by Sandler's Zohan. The image of Sandler taking a terrorist's gun apart before he fires a shot is really only a mild comedic exaggeration of Robert Shaw as a Mossad agent in Black Sunday, hanging off the Goodyear blimp while trying to prevent Black September terrorists from detonating a bomb over the Super Bowl.

Israel's retaliation for the murder of Israeli athletes by PLO terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympics helped bring the Mossad out of the shadows, and Israel's reputation for audacity was further buffed up by Raid On Entebbe, a 1977 TV movie featuring a young James Woods in a proto-Zohan role, playing a sniper on the commando team that freed 100 Israeli hostages in a daring real-life nighttime raid. Since then, however, Israel's public image has suffered a relentless harrowing, and on the movie screen Mossad agents have regularly been glimpsed in passing, usually retired and working as mercenaries in the thuggish supporting cast of action films, or suffering from guilt and doubt, like Eric Bana in Steven Spielberg's Munich.

Israeli society gets portrayed with a lighter touch — in Zohan, Tel Aviv comes off like a cross between an Ibiza rave and Pride weekend in Miami. There's plentiful basis for this in fact, but its movie genesis can be glimpsed in the throngs of attractive young Israeli soldiers with their chic khaki uniforms and Sten guns in films like Exodus and Cast A Giant Shadow. The notion of sexy Israel probably begins with Senta Berger meeting Kirk Douglas in Cast A Giant Shadow, telling Douglas about her husband in the Palmach, while admitting drily that the sex isn't so good, and encouraging Douglas to try his chances with her anyway.

Forty years later this has metastasized into Zohan nonchalantly sexing up a cohort of elderly hair salon clients, which may, depending on how the film is received when it opens this Friday, be added to the long list of adversity that Israel has endured since its founding.

Cyndi Lauper takes her music to the brink

By **BRIAN COULTON**
for Metro Calgary

There was a time when Cyndi Lauper just wanted to have fun. Now, she just wants to do something different.

"I always want to make modern music," says the Grammy Award-winning pop icon, now 54. On her new album, Bring Ya To The Brink, she hopes to maintain modernity by focusing on people. "What I really tried to do was capture real live people — the way they speak right now, in terms of what's going on right this second, like a little snapshot," she says.

To take that picture, Lauper drew on the energy she remembers feeling while going out dancing with friends during her 2006 Broadway role in The Threepenny Opera. "I'm not able to do that so much anymore and I missed them. I was thinkin', someday I have to make music for them. I'll be dancin' with them, but maybe not physically there, ya know?" she says in a heavy New York brogue.

Part of that energy involves international influences. Lauper says, "You want to include the world. I want to make inclusive music." Although Bring Ya To The Brink is her eighth studio album, it is the first on which she traveled to write, focusing heavily on European collaboration.

"People over there in Europe — especially the English — they not only drive on the other side of the road but they sing on the other side of the beat," adding, "Of course I didn't drive, I left that to other people."

SONY BMG PHOTO

Bring Ya To The Brink is the new album from Cyndi Lauper.

Lauper also admits a distinctly Canadian impact on this album and on her work in general. "Canadians are the nice Americans. We love Canadians. I loved growing up with Joni Mitchell, Neil Young — those are great artists!" On Bring Ya To The Brink, Lauper collaborated with Martina Sorbara and Dan Kurtz of Toronto foursome, Dragonette.

"I went to London thinkin' they were English and I was like, eh! You're Canadian, eh?" she exclaims. The couple co-wrote and produced the track Grab A Hold, a mid-tempo, synth-heavy club song with Lauper's signature vocal line.

celeb arrest

Tatum O'Neal says cops 'saved me'

O'Neal

PEOPLE

Tatum O'Neal feels saved by the officers who arrested her Sunday in New York for allegedly buying cocaine near her home, People.com reports.

"I'm still sober!" the Paper Moon Oscar winner told the New York Post. "Just when I was about to change that and wreck my life, the cops came and saved me."

O'Neal was arrested and charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Amos drops label, goes independent

Tori Amos has ended her six-year tenure with Epic Records, calling on her fellow artists to "stop being dependent ... on any system that has become undependable."

The singer/songwriter, 44, released three albums on Epic, most recently 2007's American Doll Posse, which hit No. 5 on the Billboard 200. Before that, she was with Atlantic from 1992 until 2001, when she joined artists such as Rod Stewart, Poe and Collective Soul in leaving the label.

In a statement on her website, Amos said she looked forward to crossing into "the new unchartered Music Frontier," where the impossible will soon become possible.

Amos

Amos' next album, due in spring 2009, will be "a project of new music and visuals which is being started in the summer," Amos' manager John Witherspoon told Billboard.com.

Amos will also unveil a graphic novel, Comic Book Tattoo, based on her catalog.

REUTERS

Season starts with bang

Talent shines in Season 6 debut of Canadian Idol

ON TV

SANDY CAETANO
sandy.caetano@metronews.ca

Here we go again with the sixth season of Canadian Idol.

With the promise from insiders that this is going to be the best group of talent yet, the premiere last night did have a few diamonds to offer.

The episode last night began with the audition tour stop in Toronto. Meet Omar Lunan, a 29-year-old single father from Scarborough whose smooth voice and cool vibe made the judges fall in love with him. So he's got a gold ticket to the next round of the singing competition in Toronto.

Next was Tetiana Ostapowych, 25, who left Los Angeles to try out for Idol. With a gold ticket in her hand, her return to Canada paid off — for now.

The super hyper energizer bunny was 29-year-old Gary Sneddon, who couldn't hold a note or stand still. He got the boot.

But strange isn't always that bad — at least not for Peterborough's Taylor Abrahmse, 16, who after an odd take on Queen's Tie Your Mother Down, was also moving on in the competition.

Then there were the Pigott brothers, Oliver, 27, and Sebastian, 25. The older of the two was living in the United Kingdom, but like many others, Idol is bringing him back.

Oliver has charisma. And if that isn't enough his sweet, melodic voice and velvet tone are remarkable. Sebastian has a deep, sultry raspy voice and a cool but wacky personality that pulls you in for more. And they're both sticking around.

Next stop was Calgary, where viewers were treated to more memorable performances like Jesse Cottam, 23, whose stellar voice led him to a gold ticket.

A unique voice did the same for Earl Stevenson, 23, from Lloydminster, Alta, and for Theo Tams, 22, from Lethbridge, whose sweaty armpit stains and wicked performance of Howie Day's Collide impressed the judges enough to give him a gold ticket.

Catch Canadian Idol again Monday on CTV at 9 p.m.

CTV PHOTO

Canadian Idol judges, left to right, Sass Jordan, Farley Flex, Zack Werner and Jake Gold.

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Billy Zane, left, has joined Teri Polo in the cast of ABC's upcoming drama pilot Finnegan, which focuses on the organized crime/vice unit in Los Angeles.

EW.COM

Life On Mars remains a mystery

IDIOT BOX

RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

LIFELESS? I've been down on ABC's upcoming remake of the British show Life On Mars pretty much from the first time I heard about it — with the important qualification that I was wrong about NBC's remake of The Office, and I'm man enough to admit it. Frankly, I wouldn't mind being wrong about ABC's Life On Mars, but I've got to say that the prospects for the show right now don't look good.

According to a Los Angeles Times story this weekend, the ABC remake "instantly looked like a must-watch for any viewer's fall TV list," which is news to me — the buzz about the show was strictly limited to producer David E. Kelley's participation, and the sentiment among fans of the BBC original was wary verging on hostile.

After rumours began flying a month ago, it looks fairly certain now that Kelley is out — "He almost certainly won't have anything to do with the show from now on," wrote the Times, adding that "well-informed people profess not to know whether he'll receive his customary executive producer credit or even whether his name will be on the pilot."

Kelley, it has to be remembered, was the man who bought U.S. rights to the show, brought it to ABC and wrote the first script. Executives at ABC thought the pilot departed too much from the original show's premise, and demanded reshoots, which apparently ignited a battle over who would pay for all this stuff. Combined with wrangling over a new season order of Kelley's current show Boston Legal and other staring matches that only make sense to people in the business, it transpired that Kelley was talked into letting go of Life On Mars in order to get a 13-episode order of Boston Legal that would bring the show just over a syndication — and DVD-friendly 100 episodes. In essence, Kelley gave up on his new baby to make sure that he'll be able to lease a new car every year and keep the beach house after he retires.

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

After rumours began flying a month ago, it looks fairly certain now that David E. Kelley's out on his Life On Mars project.

A new group of showrunners have essentially put the show's future up for grabs. A location change, from L.A. to New York, has already been made, and recasting is also likely, while the fate of Kelley's pilot is uncertain, though after switching coasts, it's to be assumed that most, if not all, of the pilot is likely to be scrapped.

"The things we don't know about ABC's Life on Mars could fill more space, alas, than this column is allowed," writes the Times' Scott Collins.

The one thing I know is that I only hope the ABC version does well enough that someone, somewhere, can green light DVD box sets of the British show for release on this side of the Atlantic.

My motives are selfish, I know, but I think it's safe to say that it's been awhile since anyone working on ABC's remake was inspired by any passion for the project.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

courts

Uma's stalker to get psych care

Thurman

RELEASED A man convicted of stalking actress Uma Thurman and harassing her family for two years was ordered released from jail Monday and will be required to submit to psychiatric care as a condition of his probation.

Jack Jordan, 37, was accused of sending harassing e-mails to Thurman's father and brother and loitering for hours on the steps of Thurma's apartment, among other incidents.

REUTERS

»news
In Brief

» **TRIAL** The prosecution has rested its case in R&B star R Kelly's child pornography trial, BBC News Online reports.

» **FINE** A French court has fined former film star Brigitte Bardot 15,000 euros for inciting racial hatred, BBC News Online reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
6/4/08 primetime	267	351 - ACCESS	Law Order: CI		Perfect	Simple	Supernatural		Supernanny		Help TV
	243	317 3 CFCN	eTalk	Jeopardy!	CSI: NY (HDTV)		So You Think You Can Dance (N)				News (N)
news	-	- 4 BROAD	Broadcast News		Broadcast News News.						
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	News	Entertain	Insider	Wife Swap		Supernanny		Men-Trees
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Final				fifth estate		National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET	Entertain	ReGenesis		The Office	Name Earl	'Til Death	Back	News
	246	- 8 CKAL	Friends	Friends	Supermodel		Rock of Love		Men in Trees		Your City
	119	705 9 CBXFT	Des suel	L'Épicerie	La Petite Séduction		France		Le Téléjournal (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	- 10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372 12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	Friends	Scrubs	Price Is Right		Criminal Minds		CSI: NY
	-	374 14 KSPS	News-Lehrer		Windsors-Royal		Windsors-Royal		As Close-Dare		Causes
	502	390 15 CBC	National		Thunderheads		National		National		Thunder
sports	-	370 16 KHQ	NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Final				News (N)	News (N)	Jeopardy!	Fortune	Raymond
	-	373 22 KAYU	'70s Show	Simpsons	Two Men	Two Men	So You Think You Can Dance (N)				News (N)
	297	652 37 WPIX	Farmer Wants a Wife		CW11 News at Ten		Fam. Guy	Two Men	Sex & City	Will-Grace	Frasier
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper
	508	502 31 CNN2	Glenn Beck		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Glenn Beck		Grace
	400	400 21 TSN	MLB Baseball		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Off-Record	Boxing Wednesday Night Fights.		
	408	418 27 net	Darts World Premier League.				Countdown to UFC 85		Sportsnet Connected		Fighter
	410	403 30 SCORE	(5) RaceNight		Score Tonight		The Spin		Score Update		Update
	411	457 44 OLN	The Rig	Mans	Travels	Globe	Pilot Guides		Don't Forget		Ed's Up
family	417	406 48 SPEED	Pinks	Pinks	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pinks	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Pinks
	552	543 20 YTV	Drake	iCarly	Malcolm	Prank Ptrl	Fries	Monster	Futurama	Shadow	Falcon
	557	541 39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	So Raven	Smart Guy	Suite Life	Sadie	Montana	Life Derek	School
	555	545 67 TOON	6teen	Johnny T	George	Scooby	Scooby	6teen	Total Dra	Futurama	Space
cable variety	575	583 11 CMT	Reba	Hope	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Totally "1997"		Reba	Hope	Home Imp.
	553	546 17 TREE	Little Bear	Spider	Couch	Rolie Polie	Berenstain	Babar	Backyard	Dora	Quilt
	-	- 18 CHTV	'70s Show	E! News	Zoe-Wild Card		Still Small Voices (2007, Suspense)				News (N)
	505	398 19 TWN	EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568 23 W	Shopping	House	Will-Grace	Friends	Shopping	Style Jury	Cookies	Stuck	Maxed
	521	560 24 TLC	Jon Kate	Jon Kate	Jon & Kate 8		Jon Kate	Jon Kate	Jon Kate	Jon Kate	Jon Kate
	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner	Glutton	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Dinner
	615	520 26 A&E	CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer	Billable	ReGenesis		Da Vinci's Inquest		Trailer	Rent	Life
	601	562 33 SLICE	Find-Husband		Trading Spouses		X-Weighted "Kristen"		Find-Husband		Trading
	-	633 34 ENC2	Players	(7:25) The Contract (2000)			The Prince of Tides (1991, Romance)				Stewdess
	520	505 35 DISC	Sport Science (N)		Mayday (N)		Daily Planet		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs
	620	523 36 BRAVO	Looking for Leonard (2002)			Bravo	Law & Order		Without a Trace		Innocence
	294	650 40 WPCH	(6) Spider-Man (2002)			Seinfeld	Friends	Friends	Frasier	Frasier	SpiderMan
	626	547 41 COM	Laughs	Comedy	Air Farce	22 Min	Laughs	Corner	Simpsons	S. Park	Black
	-	539 42 TCM	Too Bad	(7:45) Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (1964)					The Millionairess (1960, Comedy)		
	628	584 43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter		UFC Unleashed		CSI: Crime Scn		Voyager
	522	516 45 HIST	Disasters	Mastrmnd	NCIS		Inventors	Legends	Working Over Time		NCIS
	627	528 46 SPACE	Star Trek Gen.		Supernatural		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Enterprise
	-	- 47 AMC	Last American		Missing in Action ★★ (1984, War)				Missing in Action 2		
	619	525 49 TROP	What	Vanity	TV Made	TV Made	ET	What	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	600	564 50 HGTV	Property	City	Unsellable	Buy Me	House	Secrets	Potential	My House	Property
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV News	News	CTV News	News	News	News
	504	508 70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Business News		Market	Workopol	Squeeze
	526	507 92 CLT	Imperiuim		Traders		The West Wing		The District		Imperiuim
	269	350 93 APTN	First Talk	News	Reel Insight		Chiefs	Rez Rides	Northern Exposure		500Natns
	-	- 94 MCP	News	News	The Land	Daughters	Vancouver	Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que
	571	581 100 MMM	Scott Baio 46		Don't Forget		Celebrity Rehab		Scott Baio 46		Popagan
	570	580 101 MM	The Shift		PunchMuch		Gone Wild	Gone Wild	Punk'd	Untrue	Gone Wild
	581	566 102 MTV	The Real World		The Real World		MTV Live		The Real World		Real Wrld

critics' corner

Supernatural

Who's your daddy, kid? Could it be ... Dean? In "The Kids Are Alright," Sam and Dean (Jared Padalecki, Jensen Ackles) visit an old girlfriend of Dean's, Lisa (guest star Cindy Sampson). She's a mom now, and her 8-year-old son (guest star Nicholas Elias) looks suspiciously like Dean. Duty calls when the boy vanishes, and the brothers discover that a demonic parasite is stealing the local children. 8 PM on SPACE ACCESS

X-Weighted

The contestants of this weight-loss series are up to the challenges set by trainer Paul Plakas, self-esteem expert Fred Connors and nutritionist Crystal Andrus. In this new episode, the focus is on musician Kristen. Being in the public eye as a performer, she wants to look her best. But it's hard when your partner can eat pretty much anything without gaining an ounce. 6 PM on SLC

Sport Science

What's behind a good athlete? Is it muscle mass? An excellent exercise regime? This new series takes a look at the mechanics of being a great athlete. Experiments are conducted in an abandoned airplane hangar, where a lab has been outfitted with sensors, sports equipment, motion-capture cameras and crash-test mannequins. 7 PM on DISC

celebritybuzz

Diaz out with Aniston's ex

Cameron Diaz was seen having dinner with model Paul Sculfor who briefly dated Jennifer Aniston last year, People.com reports.

"They looked really flirty," says a source of the pair's dinner at Santa Monica's Il Ristorante di Giorgio Baldi. "She was laughing really loud at all of his jokes. It looked like a date."

After two hours, Diaz, 36, and Sculfor, 37, left the restaurant together. Though Sculfor attempted to open her door, his chivalrous move was foiled when they were approached by a waiting photographer.

"Paul tried but Cameron was rushing him to leave since she didn't want to be photographed together," says the source.

Only a couple nights before, Diaz was spotted dirty dancing with pal Sean Diddy Combs at a party celebrating Prince's new book 21 Nights. A few hours and a couple of Grey Goose cocktails later, the pair was seen with their arms locked around one another during Prince's rendition of the Doobie Brother's Long Train Running. They left the party together shortly before 3 a.m.

Diaz is comfortable with keeping her options open. "People think if you're single, you are incomplete," she said in the June issue of InStyle. "No. The thing is, I don't want to be in a relationship that makes me incomplete."

Metro News Services

Gyllenhaal tops Hot100 gay icons poll

Jake Gyllenhaal has topped a poll of the Hot 100 gay icons, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 27-year-old actor – who famously starred in a homosexual love scene with Heath Ledger in Brokeback Mountain – came first in the survey of 100,000 people on gay website AfterElton.com, for the second consecutive year. Gyllenhaal beat Torchwood star John Barrowman and Brothers And Sister's actor Luke McFarlane to the top spot. On AfterEllen.com – the lesbian counterpart to AfterElton.com – 30 Rock comedienne Tina Fey came top of the Hot 100 gay women list. Fey beat talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, her girlfriend Portia de Rossi and Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines star Kristanna Loken to first place.

Metro News Services

Lohan's dad lashes out at ex-wife

Lindsay Lohan's father Michael has lashed out at his ex-wife Dina in his latest magazine column, blaming her for spreading "lies" about their actress daughter's recent visit to hospital, imdb.com reports. In the second installment of his weekly column for U.S. magazine Ok!, Michael voices concern over his ex's parenting abilities on her reality show Living Lohan, claiming she lied to cover up the Mean Girls star's recent hospitalization after an asthma attack. He writes: "What continues to frustrate me is the deception and hypocrisy ... If Dina is soooo worried about false tabloid reports, why is it that her own camp lied about Lindsay being in the hospital to visit a friend, when truthfully, she had an asthma attack? Is it so bad to say that Lindsay did have an asthma attack? Why not just be honest and not lie?"

The rant comes amid the re-opening of the pair's divorce proceedings. Michael has taken Dina to court amid claims she won't allow him to visit with their younger children Cody, 11, and Aliana, 14.

Metro News Services

Aguilera finds motherhood sexy

Christina Aguilera wants more children, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Dirrty singer – who has a four-month-old son Max with husband Jordan Bratman – is "absolutely" planning to extend her family in the future because motherhood makes her feel "sexy". When asked if she wants more babies, Aguilera replied: "Oh, eventually, yes! Yes, absolutely. Absolutely! Motherhood comes very naturally to me. I think a whole new confidence comes with being a mother. I feel very confident and very sexy as a mother."

The 27-year-old singer recently revealed her breasts swelled to an E-cup when she was expecting Max.

Metro News Services

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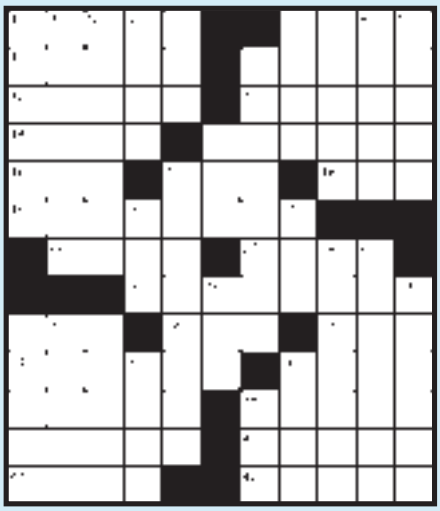


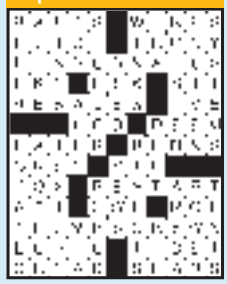
down »

1 Climbed
2 Chose from the menu
3 Bureaucratic annoyance
4 Aussie birds
5 Agent, briefly
6 Make sound
7 Even a little
8 Owner's paper
9 Golfer Sam
11 Ample midsection
15 Pronounce
17 Deli side
20 Young man
21 Couple
24 Furrows
25 Butler, for one
27 "Tamerlane" writer
28 Formal
29 Bread ring
30 Site of action
31 Ranch staff
35 Italy's shape
36 Thin coin
38 Speck

across »

1 More angry
6 Scratching post users
10 Liqueur type
11 Russia's Vladimir
12 Make sense
13 Make speeches
14 "Why not!"
15 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
16 Geologic period
17 Truck part
18 Was a pioneer
19 Utilized
22 Agreement
23 Galoots
26 Took a dim view of
29 Scrooge cry
32 Tofu base
33 Bruin Bobby
34 Fit for farming
36 Pigeon's cousin
37 Columbus' home
38 Met stars
39 Fund
40 Portents
41 Endure
42 Choleric

previous answer



HOROSCOPE

ARIES | March 21-April 20
A complex choice will be presented. A friend's habit causes trouble. Give your heartfelt best wishes and head for the door.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
A change comes in career progress. You must attend to a tyrant. Being self-disciplined will ease your burdens.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Let someone else take the lead. No good deed will go unrewarded. A friend loses out after an unexpected meltdown.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
You're tired of giving advice about something you know. Don't be snobbish about a lover. Life choices can be spoiled by selfish actions.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
Someone gets caught making noise. Be patient until a great job is offered. Be reasonable when challenged by human nature.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Don't tease a drama queen. Be calm when frightened by a transition. Watch a loved one's dream come true.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
A loser will unexpectedly help out. A ridiculous person will interrupt a daydream. Stay alert around a happy woman.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
Don't ask an elder to do a tedious chore. Be generous to an amusing bore. Ignore the boss at your peril.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
Justice for all is imminent. Someone will be wearing yesterday's clothes. A girlfriend has severe money problems.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Plan a better strategy to make your effort succeed. A lady in disguise comes to the door. An outsider slides into a rendezvous.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Don't make a decision based on differing opinions. Being careful will help strengthen an arrangement. Don't play games.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Keep cash handy to pay for repairs. Open your heart and go out with a special person. Sibling becomes hostile about the truth.

AVATAR VENUS

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wed–sat 10am to 6pm
sun 11am to 5pm
closed mon and tues

STICKLERS
Terry Mitchell
Using four 4's and any math symbols and operations, can you devise an equation whose answer is 39?

Previous Answer

			2				4	5
	6		7				8	
		3			6	1		
9				5	7			
	1	6				9	7	
			1	8				4
		9	8			7		
	2				4		1	
6	8				3			

instructions »

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time »

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

8	9	6	5	1	7	2	4	3
2	4	3	8	6	9	7	1	5
1	7	5	4	3	2	6	8	9
5	6	1	7	2	4	9	3	8
4	3	2	9	8	1	5	7	6
9	8	7	6	5	3	1	2	4
3	1	9	2	4	6	8	5	7
7	5	4	1	9	8	3	6	2
6	2	8	3	7	5	4	9	1

This Day IN HISTORY

June 4, 1917: The first Pulitzer Prizes are awarded: Laura E. Richards, Maude H. Elliott, and Florence Hall receive the first Pulitzer for a biography (for Julia Ward Howe). Jean Jules Jusserand receives the first Pulitzer for history for his work With Americans of Past and Present Days. Herbert B. Swope receives the first Pulitzer for journalism for his work for the New York World.
June 4, 1973: Patent for the ATM granted to Don Wetzel, Tom Barnes and George Chastain.

WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Calgary weather

The Weather Network
theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
40%				60%
Thunder-showers. 18°	Variable. Low 6°	Sunny. 20°/ 8°	Partly sunny. 15°/ 6°	Rain. 15°/ 7°

Temperature
Normals
High: 19.4°
Low: 5.8°

Records
High: 32.8°/1970
Low: -0.6°/1914

Sunrise: 5:24 a.m.
Sunset: 9:45 p.m.
Moonrise: 5:37 a.m.
Moonset: 11:37 p.m.

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